Catalano, Michele Carlo Emmanuele

Aug. 1917

(98)

Catalano, Michele Carlo Emmanuele

Aug. 1917

243 Regg. Fant. 506
Z. d. S. 8th August 17.

D. Robert A. Falconer
President of the University
of Toronto:

Dear Mr. President:

Allow me to thank you for yours of the 5th of July, which reaches me to-day, and for the kind words you have for me. The last few weeks have been rather exciting, but thank God, I am still able to write you. Now, the peaceful surroundings where we are at rest for a few days, will do lot of good to our men, and to myself; war seems so far away.

in the course of the whole history, is very symptomatic. The past has prepared this present common action against common enemies.

I am sorry that since last october, I never was able to get a canadian paper here at the front. They tell me the foreign mail do not carry newspapers. I would like very much to hear more of canadian work, and possibly of canadians in war, being in absolute ignorance of thing happening in Toronto, my adoptive "Milano". So, I do not close to present you my best greetings for the Honors, which I have heard have been granted upon you by H. M. the King. If, however this is true, as I hope, allow me to congratulate you upon it, and ask if my next should be addressed to Sir Robert Falconer

I was so sorry to hear of Professor Fraser's death, and I am sure the new professor from Johns Hopkins will be a precious help to the Department. As I see there have been many changes in the University staff, and the loss of men like Professor Johnston is certainly very hard to those who know and appreciated their personality and work. As you say, the entrance of the United States into the war, is regarded as one of the most important event of the last few months. It is too bad that the Russians do not seem to have find their leader, and that such gallant efforts as their last offensive have been spoiled by irresponsible minorities.

The Italian front is the most ugly to mount any action in the Orient, and no doubt our efforts will have to be doubled. The troops lying to-day the ends of the splendid reception given to the Italian Foreign Secretary, Baron Sonnino in London by the British people. I can picture the unlimited scene. It must have been. We all are glad to see that the alliance between England and Italy is based upon mutual understanding and friendship, which means more than common interest. As I had the pleasure to explain once in a short speech for a Canadian audience, the core of the Anglo-Saxon people and the Italian, never at war,

as required if such is the case. I think there are not, in the whole empire, many men who have done so much work and in such an intelligent way, like the President of the University of Toronto has done.

You will be glad to hear that food conditions in Italy are far better than some expected. Submarines do not seem to cause Italy more losses than was figured up. Tho' we all hope and pray for a near peace, we all are willing to do our duty until the just peace is obtained.

I hope this will find you in

the best of your health.

Hoping to be able see again soon you and the dear Canadians friends. I remain,

Truly yours

M Ofatatauro

243 Regg. Fanteria.
Zona di guerra

Home adress:
Corso Sempione 60 - Milano.